

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 04185 161001Z

17

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 160928Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 366

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4185

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS PFOR ETRD CH

SUBJ: USG REPRESENTATION AT CANTON TRADE FAIR

REF: A. HONG KONG 4041 B. STATE 73320

1. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN HONG KONG ARE BEGINNING TO PRESS ON SUBJECT OF WHETHER OR NOT CONGEN PERSONNEL WILL RECEIVE VISAS FOR ATTENDING CANTON FAIR. LINE SEEMS TO BE THAT NO CORRESPONDENTS HAVE RECEIVED VISAS AND SINCE CONGEN OFFICERS HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEM EITHER THERE MUST BE SOME POLICY IMPLICATION FOR US-PRC RELATIONS.

MOST RECENT AND VIGOROUS PROBE HAS COME FROM UPI CORRESPONDENT, CHARLES SMITH, WHO AFTERNOON APRIL 16 ATTEMPTED TO FIND OUT WHEN AND WHERE APPLICATIONS FOR CONGEN OFFICERS WERE SUBMITTED. WE HAVE HELD FIRMLY TO OUR LINE REFTEL A AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO BUT IT OCCURS TO US THAT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE FOR PRCLO TO LEARN THAT REPORTERS WILL BE SHORTLY CONFIRMING VERY POINT MADE BY ARMSTRONG IN HIS DEMARCHE OF APRIL 10 (REF B), NAMELY THAT U.S. PRESS WILL DRAW CONCLUSION THAT RDYUSAL TO ALLOW CONGEN OFFICERS TO HELP U.S. BUSINESSMEN AT FAIR MEAND DETERIORATION IN US/PRC RELATIONS.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT UPI WILL FOLLOW THIS SUBJECT UP IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED DEPT'S NOON BRIEFING ASAP SINCE THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO CROSS-RUFF US. PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IS TO HAVE GOOD ANSWERS,
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DEPENDING ON HOW DEPT WISHES TO IHAY IT, FOR QUESTIONS AS TO

WHEN VISA REQUESTS WERE SUBMITTED AND WHETHER DELAY IS
SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF US/PRC RELATIONS.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE FAIRS, VISAS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK04185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740087-0386
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740440/aaaabjxy.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. HONG KONG 4041 B. STATE 73320
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG REPRESENTATION AT CANTON TRADE FAIR
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, ETRD, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005